

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 1-18 are now pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to improve their form and clarity. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify that each one of the divided stator members is formed by laminating a plurality of core sheets and bonding at least parts of end faces at an inner rim of the divided stator members along a laminating direction of the cores sheets with an adhesive. None of the reference taken singly or in combination disclose this feature of the claimed invention.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-4, 7-11, and 14-18 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeuchi (USP 5,583,387) in view of Hirano (USP 5,729,072), and claims 5, 6, 12, and 13 were previously rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeuchi in view of Hirano and Torossian (USP 4,103,195). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants submit that 1) the combination proposed by the examiner would not have taught bonding the inner or outer end face along a laminating direction of the core sheets with an adhesive to join the core sheets of each divided stator member, and 2) there would not have been any motivation to bond the inner or outer end face with an adhesive for that purpose.

The examiner correctly states that Takeuchi teaches laser welding the inner and outer end faces 12 (Fig. 1) of the core sheets of each divided stator member instead of adhesive bonding the core sheets. In this regard, the examiner relied upon Hirano for the proposition that it would have been obvious for Takeuchi to bond the core sheets using an adhesive. Applicants disagree.

First, Hirano teaches bonding (Fig. 2) the divided stator members 21 to each other using an adhesive. Specifically, Hirano teaches joining the stator members 21 to each other at the outer divided surfaces 24 between adjacent stator members 21 to eliminate the need to join the inner divided surfaces 3 (Fig. 4). In contrast to the examiner's assessment, the combination would have taught, at best, adhesive bonding Takeuchi's stator members together at their

dividing faces 13, not the core plates of each stator member called for in the claims.

Second, if the examiner intended to merely rely upon Hirano for the proposition that welding and adhesive bonding are fungible, regardless where it is applied, applicants submit that the examiner has not provided any motivation as to why Takeuchi would use adhesive bonding specifically when Takeuchi specifically calls for using laser welding to join the core plates. The examiner nor the applied references provide any motivation for bonding with an adhesive when laser welding has been particularly selected and desired in Takeuchi.

In contrast, the claimed invention is directed to solving a specific problem with conventional stator members, namely, welding on borders between laminated cores sheets which form conventional divided stator members (See Fig. 7A) damages the electrical insulation of the laminated sheets. The damaged insulation increases eddy currents which results in a decrease in motor efficiency. None of the cited references cited by the examiner recognizes the problem addressed and solved by the claimed invention. Applicants submit that the only motivation for combining the references as proposed by the examiner is applicants' own teaching of the problem and solution provided by the claimed invention, which cannot form the basis for finding the claims prima facie obvious as required under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Even if the combination were proper, applicants submit that the combination would fail to yield the claimed invention. Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify that each one of the divided stator members is formed by laminating a plurality of core sheets and bonding at least parts of end faces at an inner rim of the divided stator members along a laminating direction of the cores sheets with an adhesive. None of the reference taken singly or in combination disclose this feature of the claimed invention.

Torossian would not have alleviated the above shortcomings of Hirano and Takeuchi. Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 1-18 patentably distinguish over the applied references and thus urge the examiner to reconsider and withdrawal the rejection of the claims and pass the application to issuance.

Conclusion

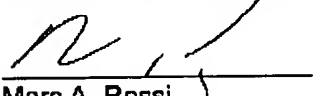
In view of the above, applicants submit the rejection of the claims is improper and should be withdrawn. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

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